

REMARKS

Claims 72-96 are in the application, and are subject to a Restriction/Election Requirement. Claims 72-96 have been amended to improve the form thereof.

Support for 2'-O-(2-methoxyethyl) in amended claims 76 and 77 can be found in the PCT application as originally filed at, for example, page 28, lines 10-11.

Support for "excipient" in amended claim 93 can be found at, for example, page 49, line 27.

As none of these amendments introduces any new matter into the application, entry thereof is believed to be in order, and is respectfully requested.

Examination of the present application in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

Restriction Between Groups I and II

The Examiner has required Restriction between the following two groups of inventions:

Group I: Claim(s) 72-93, drawn to a double stranded nucleic acid compound of specified sequence.

Group II: Claim(s) 94-96, drawn to a method of treating a condition via a double stranded nucleic acid of specified sequence.

Election of Species

The Examiner has also required election of a single sequence in claim 72 for examination.

Elections

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect the invention of Group I, claims 72-93.

In response to the requirement for an election of species, Applicants elect SEQ ID NO:81.

Claims encompassing the present invention drawn to SEQ ID NO:81 include claims 72-96.

Rejoinder

Applicants note the Examiner's comments that upon a finding of allowability of a product claim, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. Applicants note that present method claims 94-96 depend directly or indirectly from elected

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product claim 72, which includes SEQ ID NO:81, and are therefore eligible for rejoinder upon a finding of allowability of the latter.

If the Examiner has any questions, or would like to discuss any matter in connection with the above-identified application, he is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at (317) 433-4983.

Respectfully submitted,

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